- To reduce infrastructure bottlenecks several incentives have been announced in the Union Budget 2002-03 for improvement in power, roads, civil aviation and ports.
- The Golden Quadrilateral project will be substantially completed by December 2003-a year ahead of schedule, major ports to be corporatised in a phased manner and an allocation of Rs. 2500 crore has been made for the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana for 2002-03.
- Infrastructure equity fund of Rs. 1000 crore will be set up to help in providing equity investment for infrastructure project. Total Plan outlay on infrastructure in power, roads and railway is Rs. 37919 crores.
- Union Budget 2002-03 propose abolition of 16% special excise duty on all, except eight items.
- Additional 15% depreciation on new plant and machinery.
- Reduction of peak rate of custom duty to 30%, rationalisation of custom duty rates to two duty rates by 2004-05.
- Budget 2002-03 announced special incentives for textile industry.
- Measures to boost Housing sector such as repeal by the States of the rules under the Urban Land Ceiling Act, rationalisation of high stamp duty regimes proposed in the Union Budget 2002-03.

Boost to FDI

517. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken so far stepping up the Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in line with target of $ 8-9 billion from present $2.5-3 billion during Tenth Five Year Plan period;

(b) whether Government have made any study to remove more sectoral caps on FDI in comparison to other countries, particularly after globalisation;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what is flow of FDI this year in comparison to the last year, country-wise, FIs-wise, total amount-wise, source-wise and in which form; and

(e) whether any guidelines have been issued by Government so far to make various approval processes more easier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) Foreign Direct Investment policy is reviewed on an ongoing basis with a view to making it more investor friendly.

(b) and (c) A Group of Ministers has been constituted on FDI to review the existing sectoral policies and Sectoral equity caps and decide necessary changes.

(d) The FDI inflow figures for the year 2000 and 2001 are given below:

Amount of FDI	Year 2000	Year 2001	% Growth in Rupee terms
FDI inflows excluding ADRs/GDRs & advances pending issue of shares	Crore Rs. 10,441.20 US$ 2,428.2 million	Crore Rs. 16,071.05 US$3,571.3 million	(+) 53.92 (+) 47.08

The details of FDI proposals *viz.*, Name and country of Foreign Collaborator, percentage of equity, items of manufacture / activity and location of the project are published on a monthly basis in SIA Newsletter which is also circulated to the Parliament Library.

(e) With a view to attract more FDI Government has already put in place a transparent, dynamic and investor friendly FDI policy placing almost all activities under the automatic route for FDI upto 100% except for a small list. Under this procedure foreign investors can make inward remittance of funds and receive share certificates without prior approval of RBI subject to notifying RBI about remittance of funds and export of share certificates within 30 days of such transactions.

Revival of non-SSI Units

518. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of public and private sector non-SSI Units which stand closed to Andhra Pradesh as at the end of December, 2001, company-wise;